

**New Jersey State Board of Education  
Minutes of the Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education  
In the Conference Room on the First Floor  
100 River View Executive Plaza  
Trenton, NJ**

**August 2, 2017**

**Presiding:** Arcelio Aponte, President

**Secretary:** Kimberley Harrington, Commissioner

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Mrs. Mary Beth Berry  
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gazi  
Dr. Nedd J. Johnson  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Mr. Jack Fornaro  
Mrs. Kathy Goldenberg  
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill  
Dr. Joseph L. Ricca  
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia

**ABSENT**

Ms. Edithe Fulton

**CONVENING**

State Board of Education Vice President Andrew Mulvihill convened the public meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the reading of the statement pertaining to the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

The Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the State Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Department of Education, Secretary of State's Office and notice also having been given to the State House Press Corps, the Governor's Office and the State Board agenda subscribers.

And seeing there was a quorum, the meeting of August 2, 2017, was called to order.

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Vice President Mulvihill then read the resolution pertaining to the executive session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**WHEREAS**, in order to protect the personal privacy and to avoid situations wherein the public interest might be disserved, the Open Public Meetings Act permits public bodies to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which certain matters are discussed, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that consistent with the provision of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b, the State Board Education will now adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues. The State Board immediately adjourned to executive session on August 2, 2017.

## **RECONVENING**

State Board President Arcelio Aponte reconvened the open meeting at 10:00 a.m. with the reading of the resolution pertaining to the resumption of the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**WHEREAS**, consistent with the provision of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b, the State Board will now adjourn from executive session to resume the open session of this meeting.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **SWEARING IN CEREMONY**

President Aponte introduced the Honorable William Anklowitz, a judge of the New Jersey Superior Court in Mercer County. Judge Anklowitz administered the oath of office to new State Board members Mary Elizabeth Gazi of Somerset County, Nedd James Johnson of Salem County and Joseph Ricca of Morris County. Judge Anklowitz also administered the oath of office to reappointed State Board members Ronald Butcher, Ernest Lepore and Andrew Mulvihill.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on June 7, 2017. State Board members Kathy Goldenberg, Mary Beth Berry, Mary Beth Gazi, Nedd Johnson, Andrew Mulvihill, Joseph Ricca and Sylvia Sylvia abstained.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on July 5, 2017. State Board members Andrew Mulvihill, Mary Beth Gazi, Ernest Lepore, Joseph Ricca and Nedd Johnson abstained.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Public Testimony**

President Aponte stated public testimony would be held today at 2 pm. He also stated that the topics for the August 2 public testimony session included the readoption with amendments to chapter 32, Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts; amendments to the Educational Facilities regulations; the readoption with amendments to the Regulatory Equivalency and Waiver regulations; and amendments to the Standards and Assessment regulations. He further stated that the State Board would hear feedback from members of the public on what they would like to see included in the Jersey City School District Local Control Transition Plan.

President Aponte stated that registration for the September 13, 2017 public testimony session would open on Thursday, August 17, 2017 and close at noon on Thursday, September 7, 2017. He also stated that the topics for the September 13, 2017 public testimony session include the amendments to chapter 19, Career and Technical Education Programs regarding Private Career Schools; and the readoption with amendments to chapter 21, Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf regulations. He further stated that the September 13, 2017 public testimony is an Open Topic opportunity and registered members of the public may present testimony before the State Board on any educational topic of their choice.

President Aponte stated that anyone interested in speaking at or also attending the public testimony session must register so the State Board staff can make proper arrangements for space. He also stated that members of the public should contact the State Board office at 609-984-6024 or check the following website <http://education.state.nj.us/sboe/reg.php> for updates.

## **Permanent Student Representative**

President Aponte welcomed Karan Chauhan the 2017-2018 permanent student representative to the State Board of Education. Karan Chauhan is a junior from Parsippany Troy-Hills High School in Morris County. Karan reported on a career preparation and educational program he came across during the National Association of Student Council's conference in New Hampshire. The program was developed as a result of the book, *The Bigs: The Secrets You Need to Know to Succeed Beyond High School* written by entrepreneur and Wall Street CEO Ben Carpenter. He stated that the book inspired an entire educational program for high-school students to gain and learn the necessary skills for exploring careers, finding internships and jobs, starting a business, being a leader, and living a happy life.

## **Resolution in Honor of Joseph Fiscaro**

On behalf of the State Board, President Aponte presented Mr. Fiscaro with a resolution honoring him for his service as a member of the State Board. Mr. Fiscaro served on the board since October 2011.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board approved the following resolution read by State Board member Andrew Mulvihill:

### **RESOLUTION TO HONOR JOSEPH FISICARO**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Joseph Fiscaro served with distinction as a member of the New Jersey State Board of Education from October 2011 through June 2017 and is being honored for his distinguished tenure of service; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Fiscaro was selected by the State Board of Education membership to serve as Vice President for three years; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure as Vice President, Mr. Fiscaro was a vocal supporter of career and technical education and the State's efforts to assist school districts striving to improve their curriculum, instruction and student outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Fiscaro faithfully gave of his time to visit the 21 county vocational school districts and countless other schools within the State to learn more about their programs and to share that knowledge with other members of the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Fiscaro's strong belief in the State Board of Education's role and responsibility in the development of education policy was embodied in his willingness to travel the State to listen to the public and advocates and to attend meetings and conferences of various local, county and State education stakeholder groups; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education recognize Mr. Fiscaro's many accomplishments and appreciate his ability to apply practical insight from his experience as an educator and as a district board of education member to policy issues before the State Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education sincerely appreciate Mr. Fiscaro's advocacy on behalf of students and educators, as well as his personal qualities of warmth, humor, and genuine kindness; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, it is both fitting and proper that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education extend their sincerest gratitude to Mr. Fiscaro for his leadership and steadfast commitment to the children of New Jersey through his service on the State Board of Education; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education hereby honor Mr. Joseph Fisicaro for devoting his time and energy to the State Board and to the oversight of public education in New Jersey.

**Resolution in Honor of Mark. W. Biedron**

On behalf of the State Board, President Aponte presented Mr. Biedron with a resolution honoring him for his service as a member of the State Board. Mr. Biedron served on the board since August 2011.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board approved the following resolution read by State Board member Andrew Mulvihill:

**RESOLUTION TO HONOR MARK W. BIEDRON**

**WHEREAS**, Mark W. Biedron has been a distinguished member of the New Jersey State Board of Education for six years, having served as President of the State Board for three terms from July 2014 through June 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure as State Board President, Mr. Biedron convened a committee of his peers and senior members of the Department of Education to develop a five-year Strategic Blueprint for public education in New Jersey using a thorough and inclusive process that incorporated feedback from a varied group of educators, policymakers and stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his tenure as State Board President, Mr. Biedron supported far-reaching reform initiatives such as the educator evaluation requirements and the adoption of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, as well as the initial transition to local control of State-operated school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Biedron's efforts demonstrated his sincere belief that all children, regardless of their residence or economic status, can be successful and college and career ready through the provision of a comprehensive and aligned system of high-quality preschool through post-secondary instructional programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Biedron actively supported efforts by the Department of Education and stakeholder groups to promote sustainability in New Jersey's public schools, environmental awareness among students and educators, positive school culture and climate, social-emotional learning and interpersonal skills, and civics education and awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Biedron consistently, generously and humbly devoted substantial time and energy to the State Board and the education community through his efforts to meet with and actively promote collaboration among various stakeholder groups and used these valuable experiences to inform the development of sound education policy; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Biedron worked tirelessly representing the State Board at diverse gatherings and conferences to maintain an awareness of the pressing educational concerns of students, parents, teachers, administrators and other educational stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the State Board of Education sincerely appreciate Mr. Biedron's diligent efforts to gain consensus from stakeholders on educational issues before the State Board; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education applaud Mark W. Biedron for his intelligent and forward-thinking leadership style that ably guided the State Board to enact education policy that effectuated meaningful change and supported successful practices in New Jersey's public education system; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the New Jersey State Board of Education commends Mr. Biedron for his outstanding leadership as President of the State Board of Education and honors him for his commitment, dedication and service to the State Board and on behalf of all children of New Jersey.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

### **Social Emotional Learning Competencies**

Dr. Maurice J. Elias, Professor of Psychology, Rutgers University; Director, Rutgers Social-Emotional and Character Development Lab; Co-Director, Academy for Social-Emotional Learning in Schools provided a presentation to the State Board members on the research that shows how incorporating Social Emotional Learning Competencies into daily instruction, improves overall student performance.

### **Partnership for the Assessment for Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Announcement**

Commissioner Harrington stated that the Department would be providing an in depth presentation on assessment at the September 13, 2017 State Board meeting.

## **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

*\*Items scheduled for a vote are marked with an asterisk.*

### **\*A. Appointment(s)**

- Approved the following appointment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:

#### **Appointment**

- Rebecca Sieg, Director, Office of Recruitment and Preparation

### **\*B. Certification of School Districts**

- Certified for a period of three years, the following school district(s) recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14a and b. State Board member Nedd Johnson abstained.

<b>Certified School District</b>	<b>County</b>
Hammonton	Atlantic
Newark	Essex
South Orange- Maplewood	Essex
Clayton	Gloucester
Glassboro	Gloucester
East Hanover Township	Morris
Roxbury Township	Morris
Woodstown- Pilesgrove Reg.	Salem

**\*C. Resolution to Support Social and Emotional Learning Competencies**

- Approved the following resolution to encourage school district implementation of the New Jersey Social and Emotional Learning Competencies to promote positive school climates, regular attendance, and academic achievement in all subject areas and across all grade levels to prepare students for post-secondary success.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL **LEARNING** COMPETENCIES  
FOR NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, students come to school with a variety of experiences, barriers and abilities that may impact readiness to learn; and

**WHEREAS**, schools that foster positive climates are characterized by people feeling socially, emotionally and physically safe; students and staff [that] are held to high expectations; and **students are provided with** access to supportive programs and initiatives to assist [students] **them** to reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, social and emotional learning supports a positive school climate, reduces barriers to learning, increases school connectedness and is critical to success in school and life; and

**WHEREAS**, social and emotional learning skills, knowledge and attitudes can be acquired and are an integral part of education from preschool through Grade 12; and

**WHEREAS**, social and emotional learning is necessary for students to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, research demonstrates that social and emotional learning increases students' attendance; decreases conduct problems; improves grades and test scores; and reduces at-risk behaviors; and

**WHEREAS**, schools that embed and teach social and emotional learning skills across all subject areas facilitate students' academic success and social development; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Education and stakeholders from across the State collaboratively developed the *New Jersey Social and Emotional Learning Competencies* to support school districts in their efforts to build and deepen positive school climates; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Commissioner of Education and the New Jersey State Board of Education recommend school districts implement the *New Jersey Social and Emotional Learning Competencies* to promote safe, supportive and challenging learning environments.

**D. Standards and Assessment**

- Discussed the amendments pertaining to the State Seal of Biliteracy at N.J.A.C. 6A:8, pursuant to P.L. 2015, c. 303 and N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15.

**WORK SESSION**

There was no work session.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

President Aponte expressed his appreciation of the hard work and talent of Department of Education employee Jamar Champion who assists State Board members with their meeting room and technology needs.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its August 2, 2017, public meeting at 12:45 p.m.

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Kimberley Harrington, Commissioner  
Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education